

September 15, 2003

Subject: Comments on Six Morse code-related petitions

FROM: Robert Roundtree, Jr. KC5EIU  
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To Whom it may concern,

Petition from Kiernan K. Holiday, WA6BJH, designated RM-10783:

I totally agree with Kiernan K. Holiday, WA6BJH entirely, code requirements do seriously limits the handicapped and others and their is no technical reason for this requirement. I also agree that the Commission 's policy should be to encourage the use of Amateur Radio not stifle it. My recommendation is to completely eliminate Element 1 rules and give all Technician licensees phone privileges on all bands.

To require good radio operators to demonstrate their proficiency in code before moving on is really an albatross around their necks and the field of Amateur Radio. All of the rules and regulations governing Amateur Radio really come from the top down, not bottom up. Since many agencies in the civilized world have eliminated code at the top, it would appear that we the(USA) would do the same. In fact we should have been the first to do so. That action would have made us a leader, not a follower. Lets face it requiring code is blocking most peoples enjoyment of Amateur Radio, not promoting it. If code was eliminated some of the Technicians would go out and buy new equipment almost immediately. That action would make the Technicians happy and the money spent on new equipment would help to boost the economy. I would definitely buy a High Frequency station within days of the FCC eliminating the code requirement and giving Technicians 30 MHz and below phone privileges.

My recommendations and comments are in the best technical and practical enhancement to Amateur Radio and the economy as a whole. By bumping element 1 up to the extra class would eliminate the term General class. The new classes would be (1) Amateur Radio Operator and (2) Amateur Radio Operator Extra Class.

Thanks for your consideration,  
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